

Claims

1. A television system, including a display screen, speakers and a broadcast data receiver (BDR) for receiving digital data carried in data streams from one or more broadcaster(s) via satellite, terrestrial or cable transmission systems, said data streams being broadcast and transmitted on radio frequency (RF) carriers at different frequencies and said data corresponding to a number of different, user selectable, channels and/or services and said BDR selectively processing and generating audio, video and/or auxiliary information from said data streams in response to user selections, said BDR having two or more tuners for tuning to the required data carrier frequencies to receive data relating to two or more channels or services as and when required and characterized in that when at least one of the tuners is not in use the said at least one tuner is operated to scan through the data carrier frequency bandwidth to allow the BDR to identify and receive system service information (SI).
2. A system according to claim 1, characterized in that the service information for which the tuner is used to scan relates to television and/or radio channel identification information comprising audio, video and/or auxiliary data.
3. A system according to claim 1 characterised in that the service information relates to information relating to a new channel.
4. A system according to claim 1 characterised in that the service information relates to information for known channels or services.
5. A system according to claim 1 characterised in that the service information retrieved by the said at least one tuner is stored in memory means of the BDR.

6. A system according to claim 1 characterised in that if the service information retrieved includes information for a new channel or service which has been identified since the previous scan, a message or symbol is displayed visually and/or audibly to inform the user of the system of the new channel or service.

7. A system according to claim 1 characterised in that if the said at least one tuner is scanning for service information and is required to receive a designated data stream, in response to a user selection, the scanning is suspended and the tuner is made available for the data stream.

8. A system according to claim 7 characterised in that the scanning is resumed when the tuner is no longer required to receive said data stream, and there are no other pending tuning requirements.

9. A broadcast data receiver (BDR) for receiving data comprising video, audio and/or auxiliary data, said BDR incorporating first and second tuners, each tuner controlled to tune to a specified radio frequency to allow the BDR to receive a designated data carrier, said data carrier frequencies selected and controlled by the BDR in response to a user selection, and characterized in that when said first or second tuners are not in use to tune to a specific frequency for a particular data carrier, said tuner is controlled to scan through the data carrier frequency bandwidth to identify and retrieve service information (SI).

10. A broadcast data receiver according to claim 9 characterised in that the scanning operates continuously when the tuner is available.

11. A broadcast data receiver according to claim 9 characterised in that the scanning operates at spaced time intervals.